

POISON

WITH TODAY'S advanced technology and constant appearance of new chemical products on the market, it becomes impossible for the physician to be knowledgeable about potential poisons and their treatment. When faced with a case of poisoning, time is of the essence in instituting proper treatment. The physician must also know what specific procedures or drugs are indicated. In the past this information has often not been available.

Every physician should be cognizant of the present availability of Poison Information Centers. There are eight of these in California (listed below) that should be filed for future reference purposes. The largest volume of requests for information is reportedly handled by the Los Angeles Children's Hospital Center and the Alameda-Contra Costa County Medical Association Center.

In the event of an emergency call involving poisoning, the physician should ask the patient or other responsible party to bring the container from which the poison was derived. The Poison Information Center can then be properly advised as to what toxic material is involved. Information from these centers is restricted to physicians for medical-legal reasons.

All Poison Information Centers offer twenty-four hour service through telephone communication. In the interest of patient welfare, for occurrence of occupational or other poisoning, your Committee on Occupational Health urges all members to file or post the following list for ready availability.

POISON INFORMATION CENTERS

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| <p>1. Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association OLympic 2-8171 or Children's Hospital of East Bay, Oakland OLympic 4-5600</p> <p>2. Fresno Community Hospital ADams 3-0911 (day) ADams 3-7547 (night)</p> <p>3. Los Angeles—Children's Hospital NOrmandy 4-2121</p> | <p>4. Oakland—Children's Hospital of the East Bay OLympic 4-5600 or Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association OLympic 2-8171</p> <p>5. Orange County General Hospital KE 8-2331</p> <p>6. San Francisco—Central Emergency Hospital HEmlock 1-2800</p> <p>7. San Francisco—Children's Hospital BAyview 1-1200</p> <p>8. San Jose—Emergency First Aid Station CYpress 2-3141</p> |
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COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

*This is the nineteenth of a series of articles prepared by the Committee on Occupational Health.